



The Historian

The Newsletter of the Boynton Beach Historical Society

Serving Boynton Beach, Ocean Ridge, Manalapan, Gulf Stream, Briny Breezes, Lantana, Hypoluxo, the Village of Golf and all areas of West Boynton, in addition to supporting the preservation of the history of Palm Beach County and the State of Florida as a whole.

2014 Number 4



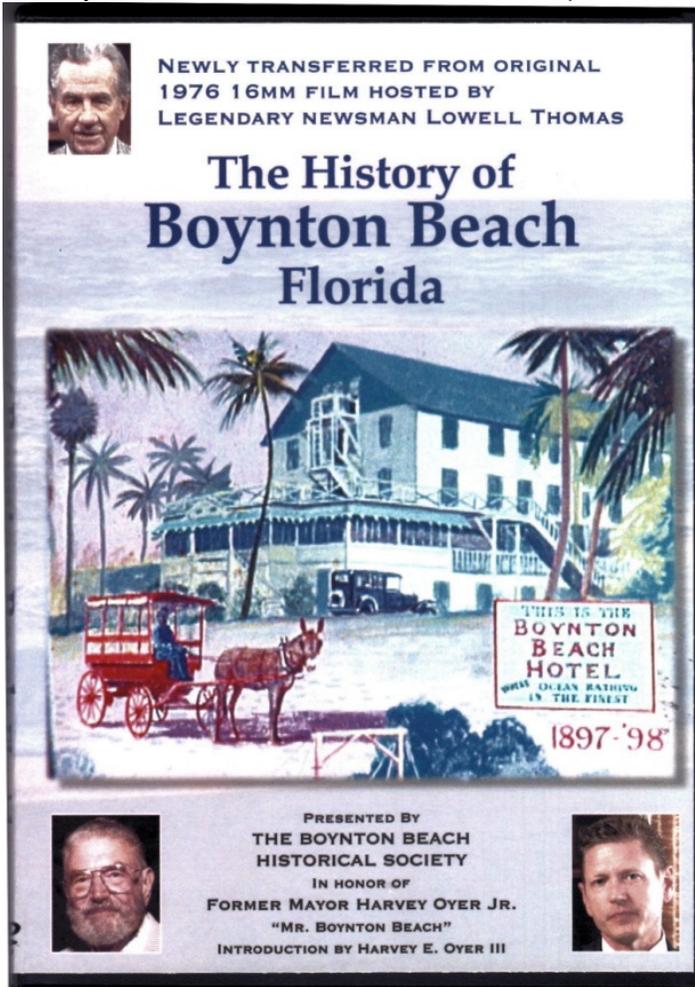
April 2014

The HISTORY of BOYNTON BEACH

A Remastered Version of the 1976 Film

In the mid-1970 the late Jim Warnke, a former Mayor of Boynton Beach and an active member of the Boynton Beach Historical Society, was instrumental in bringing about a 30 minute colored film version on the City's history. Jim authored the script, secured funding from the City of Boynton Beach and the Historical Society, and persuaded documentary film celebrity newsman Lowell Thomas to narrate the production in honor of America's Bicentennial celebration in 1976.

In 2010, to honor the memory of their father Harvey E. Oyer, Jr., the Oyer children asked that people make contributions to the Boynton Beach Historical Society for a project honoring Harvey's love of history and his commitment to the City of Boynton Beach. The Board of Directors of the Historical Society decided to take steps to preserve the Warnke/Thomas film, which was slowly degrading, by using the Oyer Memorial Fund. The product of this undertaking will be shown and discussed at the Society's meeting on April 21 at the City Library. A new introduction and conclusion feature Harvey E. Oyer, III and Jim Warnke's son, Tom Warnke.



WHAT: DVD "The History of Boynton Beach Florida" followed by Discussion of the Original plus the new Additions

WHEN: Monday, April 21, 2014, 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Boynton Beach City Library
208 Seacrest Boulevard
Program Room

ALL PROGRAMS OF THE BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARE FREE TO THE PUBLIC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS--2013-14

OFFICERS [Elected Annually]

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| President | Janet DeVries |
| 1 st Vice President, Programs | Ginger Pedersen |
| 2 nd Vice President, Membership | Voncile Smith |
| Recording Secretary | Diana Dennis |
| Corresponding Secretary | Anne Watts |
| Treasurer | Frances Tuite McKeral |

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Editor, <i>The Historian</i> | Voncile Smith |
| Archivist/Facebook/Webmaster | Janet DeVries |
| Facebook Administrator/Webmaster | Ginger Pedersen |

DIRECTORS [3-Year Staggered Terms]

| | |
|------|------------------------|
| 2014 | Steven Anton |
| 2014 | Barbara Ready |
| 2015 | Sheila Rousseau Taylor |
| 2015 | Linda Stabile |
| 2016 | Tim Bednarz |
| 2016 | Judith Merkel Howard |

TRUSTEES [3-Year Staggered Terms]

| | |
|------|-------------------------|
| 2014 | Randall Gill |
| 2014 | Wendy Franklin |
| 2015 | Christian Oyer Macoviak |
| 2015 | Audrey Gerger |
| 2016 | Virginia Farace |
| 2016 | Nancy Hood McNamee |

Our website is www.boyntonhistory.org. The e-mail address is boyntonhistory@gmail.com

Please mail inquiries or information to our local address P.O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425. Voncile can be reached at 561-734-5653. Boynton Beach Historical Society number is 561-327-4690.

You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter:

www.facebook.com/historicboyntonbeach
www.twitter.com/@boyntonhistory

The Historian is mailed eight times a year—September, October, November, January, February, March, April and May—to all members. No copies are produced in December, June, July and August. Copies from past years are posted on the website.

LIFE MEMBERS

Randall Gill
Alexander "Sandy" Simon
Curtis and Nain Weaver

NEW PHONE NUMBER FOR BBHSOCIETY

Do you want to reach the Boynton Beach Historical Society by telephone? Notice that we have a new number listed above. The Society has entered the 21st century with our "virtual" phone service through Skype technology. Our phone number is 561-327-4690, which reaches our "phone in the cloud." Callers hear a greeting and are asked to leave a message. Phone calls are returned in the evening.

2014 MEMBERS

The following are memberships paid since the March issue of *The Historian*:

PATRON:

Michael and Linda M. Callaway
Dorian Beck Trauger

INDIVIDUAL:

Warren Adams
Nancy Horan
Sandra McGregor
Rosemary Mouring
Gerald Murray
Eleanor Murray Sala
Charles Senior
Katherine Foy Thompson
Randy K. Weeks
Marion Weaver Wester

Please extend a special welcome greeting to Nancy Horan, our newest member!

IN MEMORIAM

BILLY DUBOIS – Billy DuBois and his wife Barbara have been members of the Boynton Beach Historical Society for many years. We were saddened by his sudden passing in March, 2014 just as we were mailing out the March issue of *The Historian*. Billy was a farm boy, and he and his family ran DuBois Farms for many years.



The Dubois family in 1973—from left: William, Jr. [Billy], Bob, Wayne, and William, Sr.

We extend our condolences and best wishes to Barbara and all the members of the DuBois family.

FILM ON INLET MARKER DEDICATION

If you missed the dedication of the historic marker at the South Lake Worth [Boynton] Inlet, watch it on film on Channel 20. Check with the station to learn when it is being shown.

HISTORY OF BOYNTON BEACH

By Juanita Hathcock

[This is the fourth and last installment of a series of articles that Juanita wrote in 1946 while at the age of 17 she was a junior at Boynton High School. This segment was published in *The Boynton Beach News* April 31, 1946.]

"Fishing, Boynton Casino, Rainbow Tropical Gardens, Schools and Churches:

"South Lake Worth Inlet, better known as Boynton Inlet, connects Lake Worth with the Atlantic Ocean, bringing deep sea fishing in the Gulf Stream to within a few minutes from town.

"Season after Season enthusiastic followers of Isaac Walton come to Boynton Beach to enjoy one of the most popular sports in the world.

"The captains of cabin cruisers which dock at South Lake Worth Inlet—more commonly called Boynton Inlet—have many interesting records of Sail, Amberjacks, Kings and Pompano of unusual size and weight, hooked after fierce, exciting battles.

"There is no more thrilling experience for a fisherman than hooking a huge Sail or Marlin.

"An unforgettable picture is that of a hooked Sail leaping out of the sunlit sea, a perfect arch of flashing blue and silver, dancing on his tail in an effort to shake himself free, challenging the fisherman to hold him on the hook.

"The size of the Sailfish varies from summer to winter. During the summer the Sail's average size is seven feet, four inches. Summer is spawning season. The weather is warmer and the Sailfish bite better. At this season Sailfish are scattered—in the winter the Sailfish is smaller, the average size being six feet ten inches. It is during the winter season that Sailfish move in schools.

"The spawning grounds of Sailfish have never been definitely located. There have been indications that the Sailfish moves northward to spawn as baby Sails have been caught off Cape May, New Jersey and along the coast of Virginia.

"The Boynton Beach Casino is our own bathing beach. Here, after a frolic in the colorful sea, you may enjoy showers, the bath houses, the pavilion, all without charge. Parking space for cars is for bathers' convenience.

"Boynton Beach is renowned for its many large nurseries where are grown the rare and interesting tropical trees, shrubs and flowers with which many showplaces are landscaped.

"The famous Rainbow Gardens are at Boynton Beach on the shore of lovely Lake Worth.

"These Tropical Gardens with hints of English, Dutch, Spanish, Chinese and Japanese are indescribably lovely.

"In the Boynton Beach Schools, grades one through twelve have Superior State Recognition. Accreditation [sic] is with the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

"The well-equipped buildings are located on attractively landscaped grounds. Steam heat is available.

"All teachers have had at least four years of college training. Besides the usual curriculum courses, the school possesses exceptionally fine Home Economics, Manual Training and Commercial Departments.

"The school library numbers over 3,000 carefully selected books.

"There is a well-managed school cafeteria and an active Parent-Teacher Association.

"Mrs. C. W. Pierce is Postmistress of the post office at present, succeeding Mr. Pierce, after his death four years ago, who had been Postmaster almost continuously for thirty years.

"There are two churches in Boynton Beach: The Methodist and Baptist.

"The Methodist Church was the first organized. Their first building was located on the plot of land where the Standard Service Station now stands.

"In the year 1925 they moved to the land where they are now located.

"The Baptist was organized in 1925 and their first meeting was held in the Boynton Beach Lumber Company building, owned then by J.P. Bowen. The building isn't standing now.

"Their building is now located on Lake Street.

THE END"

Boynton High School
Boynton Beach, Florida
NINETEENTH ANNUAL
COMMENCEMENT
High School Auditorium
Wednesday, May 29, 1946
8:00 p.m.
BOARD OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Mr. J. C. Engram, Chairman
Mr. George W. Slaton
Mr. Carmen Salvatore
SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Dr. John I. Leonard
SCHOOL TRUSTEES, DISTRICT FIVE
Mr. Albert McGregor, Chairman
Mr. G. C. Bell
Mr. Lloyd Benson
PROGRAM
Processional of Seniors, Miss Catherine Stimson, "March of the Priests" from Athalia—Mendelssohn.
Invocation, The Reverend F. W. Brocksmith.
Salutatorian — "Welcome", Jeanette Lewerenz.
Commencement Address, The Reverend H. Melton Ware.
Vocal selections, Mrs. Robert Clarke, accompanied by Mrs. Paul Mercer.
Valedictory, Judith Johnston.
Piano solo, "The Black Hawk Waltz", Beryl M. Woolbright, Jr.
Presentation of awards and graduating class, Mr. C. M. Redding, Principal.
Presentation of diplomas, Dr. John I. Leonard
Recessional of graduates, Miss Catherine Stimson, "Triumphal March" from Aida—Verdi.

This commencement report appeared in the May 31, 1946 issue of *The Boynton Beach News* that contained Juanita Hathcock's last installment on the "History of Boynton Beach." Boynton High School would hold only three more commencements before Boynton students, beginning in fall, 1949, were sent to Seacrest High School [now Atlantic High School] in Delray Beach to complete their programs



August, 1958 Board of Directors of the Boynton Beach State Bank [previously named First Bank of Boynton Beach, First Bank and Trust of Palm Beach County, Florida Coast Bank, Barnett Bank No. 30]. From left—J.W. “Bill” Pipes, Don Burke, John W. Wellbrock, Charles Senior, Harry Geller, Harold Shaw, Paul Mercer, C. Stanley Weaver, Walter Dutch, and James Sottile, Jr. [Photo courtesy Christine Weaver Temenyi]

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

BOYNTON'S STREETS, PARKS AND CITY SITES

Some of the places in Boynton Beach which were named after people who lived in the area are listed below.

Barton Cemetery originally known as Cherry Hill, was established in 1926 east of what is now Interstate 95 and south of the Boynton Canal (now C. Stanley Weaver Canal). At one time it was the only black cemetery in Boynton. It fell into disuse and was forgotten by almost everyone. Residents Mary and William Barton did not forget, however. For years they visited it and maintained the grave of their son Alton who is buried there. Eventually the cemetery took on their name.

After the recent establishment by the City of the Historic Preservation Board, the Board members have recognized the historic significance of this cemetery and have attempted to learn more about the graves there. A recent team from Florida Atlantic University made an attempt to identify grave sites through new technology.

Sara Sims Cemetery (now Sara Sims Park) is close to Martin Luther King and Secret Boulevards and was established in 1958. Sara Sims was from an old black family, and was very well liked in the black community. She was recognized as a leader

and respected for her religious faith. She appeared often at City Hall in the 1940s to speak on behalf of the community.

Neither Barton nor Sara Sims Cemeteries have been used for burials in recent years,

Knuth Road is the first through street west of Congress Avenue and runs from Woolbright Road northward past Boynton Beach Boulevard. Charles and Alice Knuth came to the area in 1915. They owned Few Acres Dairy off Old Boynton Road in the 1920s. Their son Orville worked with his father there until the 1930s, then he moved the dairy to the vicinity of the current Knuth Road. Charles was a mayor in the 1920s. Newcomers to the area frequently mispronounce the name, saying “Nuth Road.” The K is pronounced in a first syllable with the accent falling on the second syllable, “Ka-nuth’ Road.”

Lawrence Road is named after the Lawrence family. Whether it was named for Hy Lawrence who was a Sheriff in the 1930s or Red Lawrence, a deputy, is debatable. Red Lawrence owned a ranch in the area around what is now Lawrence Road and at the time Red had a shell rock road that led into his property. Although streets are sometimes named after Sheriffs, more commonly they are derived from property owners where the road goes through.

[Continued on page 5]

[What's in a Name – continued from page 4]

Miner Road was named for James Miner who came from to Boynton from Michigan in 1930. He was an active church and civic leader who grew commercial mango trees and raised hydroponic roses. He was also an expert cabinetmaker.

His father and grandfather had arrived earlier, however, reaching Boynton in 1918. James' grandfather was a bridge tender on the Ocean Avenue Bridge. His second wife, Ethel Powell Miner, was a clerk at the Boynton Beach Post Office for over 33 years. The road, however is named for James who raised his mangos and roses on land the road now runs beside.

Woolbright Road was named for Tom Woolbright, a coal miner from Centralia, Illinois who moved to Boynton in 1912. He became a pineapple grower. He and his wife, Ione Meredith Woolbright, built their first home on what is now the northbound ramp of I-95. Like many of Boynton's early settlers, their first home was a tent. Their son Sam Woolbright became Mayor in 1947.

Dewey Park on the northeast corner of East Ocean Avenue and S.E. 5th Street was named after the couple who originally platted and sold lots in what was to become the Town of Boynton.

Fred and Byrd Spilman Dewey came to the area in 1887 and bought and sold landholdings all along the southeast coast of Florida. When this region was still part of Dade County, Fred served as a county commissioner, county tax assessor and county tax collector. Both Fred and Byrd were active in many social and agricultural undertakings, and she was a nationally acclaimed writer.

Ezell Hester Park and Center derives its name from Ezell Hester who taught in area schools for 35 years in lived in Boynton all his life. He served as a City Commissioner from 1985 until his death in 1989.

Harvey E. Oyer, Jr. Park, formerly known as Boat Ramp Park and located on North Federal Highway was named to honor Harvey E. Oyer, Jr. who had lived in Boynton his entire life. He was a descendant of some of the earliest settlers who arrived in the area in 1873. He had served as a City Commissioner and Mayor and because of his knowledge of, service to and commitment to the area was frequently referred to as "Mr. Boynton Beach."

Harmening Park, located at Woolbright Road and Seacrest Boulevard, was named after Ed Harmening who was originally from Indianapolis. Ed moved to Boynton Beach in 1957 and served 12 years as Mayor and City Commissioner.

Pence Park was originally a ballpark from the late 1920s. A cement tennis court was added in the 1930s. It was named for Cullen Pence from Indiana, who was a farmer and a builder.

C. Stanley Weaver Canal comprises part of the Boynton Canal and was named to honor the many years of service of Stanley Weaver and his father, M.A., on the Board of the Lake Worth Drainage District. The Weavers moved to Boynton in 1910. The family operated a dairy at Military Trail and Old Boynton Road until 1973 on land that is now occupied by the Cypress Country Club. The father, M. A., served as Mayor of Boynton in the 1930s and Stanley was Mayor in 1955.

Phone 2961
STANDARD SERVICE STATION
 VERIFIED LUBRICATION
 ATLAS TIRES - TUBES AND BATTERIES

Boynton, Fla., 5-2 1946

Name Stanley Weaver

| REG. NO. | CLERK | ACCOUNT FORWARDED |
|-----------|---------------|-------------------|
| <u>10</u> | <u>Styl</u> | <u>250</u> |
| | GAL. GASOLINE | |
| | QTS. OIL | |
| | LBS. GREASE | |
| | STORAGE | |
| | TIRES-TUBES | |
| | VULCANIZING | |
| | ACCESSORIES | |

50

REDIFORM-AMERICAN SALES BOOK CO., INC., ELMIRA AND NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y.

A receipt for the purchase of gasoline in May, 1946. \$2.50 for 10 gallons makes the cost 25 cents per gallon.

UPCOMING!

Weekend History Stroll—Lake Trail Stroll, Palm Beach, April 26, 2014, 4:00 p.m. Call 561-327-4690 for more details.

May Program Meeting and Annual Covered-Dish Supper, Sunday, May 4, Boynton Woman's Club. Bring as a dish to serve 8-- a salad, a dessert or a vegetable casserole. The BBHSociety will provide beverages, place setups and the main entrées. Those not wishing to bring a dish, may pay \$10.00 per person at the door. Program: Rebecca Stitts, FAU graduate student, on her research findings at the Boynton Indian Mounds Complex west of US 441.

Galaxy Elementary School Dedication – May 8

Conrad Pickel Events, May 24, with/Art in Public Places. [Conrad Pickel was a world renowned stained-glass sculptor and artist who built the triangular shaped building just north of the Woman's Club as his studio].

Boynton Beach Fire Station #5 Emergency Operations Center/Museum Tour – May TBA

Pat & Richard Johnson History Museum/HSBPC – Sept. TBA

Boynton Cemetery Tour – October TBA

